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VBS 2021 | VIRTUAL RECREATION



VIRTUAL REC | DAY 1

Bible Story: Who is Jesus • John 10:16 and John 14:6

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am known.

Memory Verse: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for the Recreation Rotation:

1. WHO ARE YOU?

- Paper (2-3 pieces per family member)
- Scissors
- Something to write with—1 for each family member
- Bag/bowl to hold paper strips

2. WHO ARE YOU? (OUTDOOR OR OPEN SPACE VERSION)

- T-shirt, bandana, or other fabric to use as a blindfold

1. WHO ARE YOU? (INDOOR VERSION)

What You Need: paper (2 or 3 pieces per family member), scissors, something to write with, bag/bowl to hold paper slips

What You Do:

- Cut the pieces of paper into several small strips.
- Give each family member a few strips and something to write with.
- Have every family member write attributes of themselves on slips of paper.
- Some attributes could be:
 - Favorite color
 - Favorite food
 - Stuffed animal's name
 - Favorite hobby
- Put all the slips of paper in a hat, bag, or bowl.
- Take turns drawing a slip of paper and reading the attribute out loud.
- Based on the attribute, guess who wrote the attribute.
- The family member who answers correctly gets to keep the paper.
- The family member with the most papers at the end, wins!
- For younger children: Have an older sibling or grown-up help write and read the attributes.

What You Say: "We can figure these things out about each other because we know and love one another. **[Make it Personal] (Give examples of the attributes you used.)** In the same way, God knows everything about us and loves us. He loves us so much He sent Jesus to earth to pay for our sins so we can have a relationship with Him. We can have confidence because God knows everything about us and loves us! Let's say the Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known."**

2. WHO ARE YOU? (OUTDOOR OR LARGE SPACE VERSION)

What You Need: shirt, bandana or other fabric to use as a blindfold

What You Do:

- Choose a family member to be “It” and have them wear the blindfold.
- Direct all the other family members to scatter around the area and freeze in place.
- Have each person take a turn calling out something about the blindfolded person—it can be their favorite food, hobby, color, etc.
- By listening to the voices, direct “It” to try to walk to person talking.
- Their turn is up when they find one of the family members.

What You Say: “You are known and loved by your family. We know what you like and dislike. We were able to help you by telling you the things we know about you. God helps us by giving us the things He knows we need. He gave us Jesus. We can have confidence because we are known by our loving God. He knows everything about us! Let’s say the Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**”

VIRTUAL REC | DAY 2

Bible Story: The Calling of the Disciples • Luke 5:1-11; 27-32

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I belong.

Memory Verse: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for the Recreation Rotation:

1. FOLLOWER OF JESUS (INDOOR OR SMALLER SPACE GAME)

- Cotton balls or something similar
- Chopsticks (or pencils, pens to use as chopsticks)—2 per person

2. FOLLOWING THE LEADER (OUTDOOR OR LARGER SPACE GAME)

- Towel, scarf, or other piece of fabric
- An “obstacle course” that is naturally around the space

1. FOLLOWER OF JESUS (INDOOR OR SMALL SPACE)

What You Need: cotton ball or something similar, chopsticks or pencils (2 per person) to use as chopsticks

What You Do:

- Have the family members sit in a circle.
- Start by having the first person hold the cotton ball with chopsticks.
- Instruct the person who has the cotton ball to think of one way they can follow Jesus and share it with the rest of the family.
- Pass the cotton ball to the next person using the chopsticks and have them share a way they can follow Jesus.
- If the cotton ball drops on the floor, direct the family member who dropped it to just pick it up and keep going.

What You Say: “Jesus’ disciples did two things—they followed Jesus and they taught others to follow Jesus. We thought of some great ways we can follow Jesus too! We are following Jesus just like the disciples did—and we are doing the best we can, just like the disciples did. While we shared about ways we could follow Jesus, sometimes we dropped the cotton ball. But that was okay! That’s just a reminder that sometimes it’s hard to follow Jesus—but we should just keep going! The disciples didn’t always get things right. They messed up too. But they had confidence in following Jesus because He made sure they knew they belonged. **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.”**

[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you struggled following Jesus or a personal story of how you know you belong to Jesus.)

2. FOLLOWING THE LEADER (OUTDOOR OR LARGER SPACE GAME)

What You Need: scarf or towel, an “obstacle course” that is naturally around the space

What You Do:

- Direct the family to stand in a line.
- Bring out the scarf and have everyone hold on to it with one hand.
- Instruct everyone to close their eyes and keep them closed as much as they can.
- Tell them that you are going lead everyone around as they hold onto the scarf.
- Lead your family on as challenging a course as your space and their abilities will allow.
- Give kids a chance to be the leader and take the second place yourself (with your eyes closed too if you can!).
- Pay attention to everyone’s strategies for navigating the course so you can ask about it afterwards.

What You Say: “How did it feel to follow the leader with your eyes closed? Was it scary? Exciting? Fun? (Pause and let your family members respond.) Were you able to keep your eyes closed? If you needed to open them, when? Why? Did you have confidence in where we were going?(Pause and let your family members respond.) When we follow Jesus, we can have confidence! **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you struggled following Jesus or a personal story of how you know you belong to Jesus.)

VIRTUAL REC | DAY 3

Bible Story: Zacchaeus, Part 1 • Luke 19:1-9

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am forgiven.

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for the Recreation Rotation:

1. HARD OR EASY (INDOOR/SMALL SPACE GAME)

- Masking tape or another way to mark a path on the floor

2. ZACCHAEUS SAYS (OUTDOOR/LARGE SPACE GAME)

- No supplies needed

1. HARD OR EASY (INDOOR/SMALL SPACE GAME)

What You Need: Masking tape or some other way to make a line on the floor

What You Do:

- Make a masking tape line in the middle of the playing area.
- Encourage all members of the family to stand on the masking tape, facing the same side of the area.
- Explain to the family that you are going to say a situation.
- If a person thinks a situation is easy to do, have them take a step forward. If they think a situation is hard to do, have them take a step backwards.
- Some situations are (and feel free to add more):
 - Reading a book to your little brother/sister
 - Telling a friend you can't play a certain video game
 - Completing your chores
 - Forgiving a family member when they break/lose your favorite toy
 - Going to get ice cream with your family
 - Riding in the car for 12 hours with your family
 - Singing as a family in a talent show
 - Welcoming a new kid at church
- Both of the answers are acceptable, so encourage family members to make their own choices instead of stepping where they think they should.
- Share other situations and allow family members to step forward (easy) or backward (hard).

What You Say: "In today's story, Zacchaeus had to do something that was pretty difficult. Sometimes one of the most difficult things we have to do is say, 'I'm sorry' when we hurt someone or do something that we know is wrong. **[Make it Personal] (Use this time to discuss, as a family, a time when you needed to ask for forgiveness. Be honest about how you felt.)**

"Zacchaeus knew he needed to see Jesus. That's why he climbed the tree. He didn't know what the outcome would be of his actions. Because we have God's Word, we get to know how the story ends. We know that we can be forgiven when we mess up. That's why we can have confidence! **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am forgiven.**

2. ZACCHAEUS SAYS (OUTDOOR/LARGE SPACE GAME)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- This directional game is similar to “Simon Says.”
- Demonstrate for your family several mimed activities (being stuck in a box, crying, etc.).
- Call out directions and have each family member act out what is happening.
- For example, if you say “climbing,” each person should act as though they are climbing a tree. “Watching” could be shielding your eyes to look out for something.
- Pick up the pace as you go and add challenges where the family must work together without talking. For example: “Be a crowd of people shoving together to see Jesus.” Or, “Be the crowd of people who are displeased that Jesus is going to Zacchaeus’ home.”

What You Say: “You did a great job acting out today’s story. Zacchaeus didn’t know what would happen when he climbed that tree and watched for Jesus, but we do. We know that Jesus saw him and talked to him. In the same way, we can talk to Jesus when we mess up and have confidence that He hears us and forgives us. **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am forgiven.**”

VIRTUAL REC | DAY 4

Bible Story: Zacchaeus, Part 2 • Luke 19:8-9

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I can change.

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for the Recreation Rotation:

1. QUICK CHANGE (INDOOR OR OUTDOOR GAME)

- Two laundry baskets
- Articles of clothing to make a complete outfit: jacket, pants, shirt, hat, socks, etc.

2. CHANGE IS ALL AROUND US (OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

- Camera
- Notebooks
- Coloring or drawing supplies

1. QUICK CHANGE (INDOOR OR OUTDOOR GAME)

What You Need: laundry basket, articles of clothing to make a complete outfit: jacket, pants, shirt, hat, socks, etc.

What You Do:

- Put the clothes in the laundry basket.
- Set the laundry basket at one end of your space.
- Explain to the family that you are going to do a relay race.
- The first person in line is to race to the basket, put on all the clothes, and run back to the rest of the family.
- That family member quickly takes the clothes off and helps the next person put them on.
- The family member with the outfit on is to run back to the basket, take off the clothes, put them in the basket, and run back to tag the next person.
- The next person is to run to the basket, puts the clothes on, runs back to the family, and changes with the next family member in line.
- The family is to continue this relay until everyone has had a chance to do a quick change.

What You Say: "That was fun! We can change a lot of things about ourselves: our clothes, our hairstyle, even what foods we decide we like or don't like each day. When it comes to changing our hearts, though, only Jesus can do that! Only Jesus has the ability to change us from the inside—just as He did with Zacchaeus. We can have confidence because Jesus changes us. **[Make it Personal] (If you have accepted the gift of salvation from Jesus, talk about your personal salvation experience.)** "Let's say our Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I can change."**

2. CHANGE IS ALL AROUND US (OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

What You Need: Camera, notebook, coloring or drawing supplies

What You Do:

- As a family, go on a nature hike.
- Document things that change in nature with your camera or with drawings. You can ask prompting questions like:
 - Do you see differently colored leaves?
 - Do you spy a butterfly?
 - Are there flowers in various stages of bloom?

What You Say: “Change is all around us. We see change in creation everyday—like the flowers that bloom and the sun moving across the sky. We see change when we spy baby birds in their nest one day and then an empty nest the next. God’s creation is amazing! It changes to match the seasons. We change too! Our physical bodies change as we grow, and our hearts change as we get to know Jesus—just like Zacchaeus did in our story today. We can have confidence because we can change! Let’s repeat our Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I can change.**”

VIRTUAL REC | DAY 5

Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Sheep • Luke 15:1-7

Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I can make a difference

Memory Verse: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 (NIV)

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for the Recreation Rotation:

1. HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK MY SHEEP (INDOOR OR OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

- No supplies needed

2. WHERE ARE MY SHEEP? (OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

- Cones, chairs, or other items that can mark off a space
- Blindfold

1. HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK MY SHEEP (INDOOR OR OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Select one family member to be the Shepherd while all other members are sheep.
- Instruct the Shepherd to hide their eyes and count to 20 while all the sheep scatter and hide.
- After counting to 20, the Shepherd begins to seek for their sheep.
- Once all sheep are found, the last sheep discovered becomes the Shepherd and the game begins again.
- Play until everyone has had a turn to be the Shepherd.

What You Say: “How did you feel as a lost sheep? (Pause to let your family respond.) How did you feel once you were found? (Pause to let your family respond.) When it was your turn to play the Shepherd, how did you feel when you found each of us? (Pause to let your family respond.) As a Shepherd, you ensured that all of your sheep were found and safe. Jesus does the same for us and we get tell others about Him!

[Make it Personal] (Talk about a time when you told someone about the Great Shepherd—Jesus. Be sure to help the younger members of your family understand that they don’t have to wait until they are grown-ups to make a difference for others by telling them about Jesus!)

“We can have confidence to help other people by telling them about Jesus. Let’s say our Bottom Line together:
[Bottom Line] I can have confidence to make a difference.”

2. WHERE ARE MY SHEEP? (OUTDOOR ACTIVITY)

What You Need: cones, chairs or other items to mark off the playing area; blindfold

What You Do:

- This is a lost sheep version of “Marco Polo.”
- Using the cones or chairs, mark off an area that all members of the family must stay inside.
- Have one person stand in the middle of the area. They are the shepherd.
- Blindfold the shepherd.
- The object of the game is for the shepherd to “find” all of their sheep by touching them.
- The shepherd calls out, “Where are my sheep?” and the sheep must say, “BAA” each time to lead the shepherd to them.
- Once all sheep are “found,” another member of the family gets to be the shepherd.
- Play until all members have had a turn to be the shepherd.

What You Say: “After Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep, He explained what it meant. God does not look at one person and say, ‘This person is more important than anyone else. She’s the greatest in My kingdom.’ In the same way, He doesn’t look at another person and say, ‘This person is not important. He is the least in My kingdom.’ Every single person—even the littlest child—is important to God. He does not want even one single person to be lost. We can have confidence that we can make a difference by telling others about God’s love and making sure they know just how important they are to God. Let’s remind ourselves of today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence to make a difference.**”